

AN 10/664,108
Page 5

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A tool for forming wire, comprising:
 - a. a first member and a second member, each having a jaw and a handle and a mediate region between the jaw and handle;
 - b. a connecting means for securing the first and second members together at the mediate regions thereof and for permitting pivoting movement between the first and second members while locating the jaws on the same side of the connecting means such that the jaws are opposed to each other and free to move towards and away from each other; and
 - c. a link attached solely to the mediate regions of the first and second members, and extending on the same side of the connecting means as the jaws, the link having a post projecting from the link and extending intermediate the jaws for forming wire around the post, wherein the post is free to move both radially towards and away from the connecting means to permit formation of generally circular loops with various gauges of wire.
2. (Original) The tool of claim 1 wherein the jaws each have a face at a distal end thereof and a relief intermediate the face and the mediate region, such that a recess is formed by the reliefs when the first and second members are assembled with the faces opposing each other, and with the post projecting into a recess formed by the reliefs of the jaws.
3. (Original) The tool of claim 1 wherein at least one face is flat.
4. (Original) The tool of claim 1 wherein each face is flat.
5. (Original) The tool of claim 2 wherein the link is loosely secured to the mediate regions of the first and second members to permit limited movement of the post within the recess.
6. (Currently amended) The tool of claim 5 wherein the jaws have a closing arc and the limited movement of the post includes movement generally perpendicular to the closing arc

AN 10/664,108
Page 6

of the jaws in other directions in addition to movement towards and away from the connecting means.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Original) The tool of claim 1 further comprising an adjustable stop to limit the amount of pivoting movement of the jaws towards each other.

9. (Original) The tool of claim 1 further comprising a through hole in one of the first and second members for receiving a wire to make a prebend therein.

10. (Original) The tool of claim 1 wherein the connecting means includes

i. a screw received in one of the first and second members, and
ii. a threaded rivet received in the other of the first and second members, with the screw extending through aligned apertures in each of the first and second members and having a projection extending laterally from the mediate region sufficiently to receive the link.

11. (Original) The tool of claim 10 further comprising a threaded fastener received on the projection of the screw for retaining the link.

12. (Original) The tool of claim 11 wherein the threaded fastener is a locking nut.

13. (Withdrawn) The tool of claim 1 wherein the post has a stepped configuration with a plurality of diameters for forming different sized loops.

14. (Withdrawn) A method of forming a loop in wire comprising;

a. forming a U-shape in a wire;

AN 10/664,108
Page 7

- b. placing the U-shape between a pair of jaws in a pliers of the type having opposing faces on respective distal ends of a pair of jaws, with each jaw having a relief between the face and a pivot point of the pliers, the reliefs forming a recess, such that the U-shape extends around a post located in the recess;
- c. closing the jaws against the wire such that the faces compress the U-shape into a loop surrounding the post; and
- d. removing the wire loop from the pliers.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14 wherein the post is carried by a link loosely secured to the pivot point of the pliers.

16. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14 wherein the opposing faces are each flat.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14 further comprising an additional step before step c comprising:

c0. adjusting a stop to limit the distance the faces can approach each other.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14 wherein step a. further comprises using a through hole in the pliers to form the U-shape in the wire.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14 further comprising an additional step between steps c. and d. comprising:

d0. deforming at least one of two portions of the wire extending distally of the faces.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19 wherein step d0. further comprises deforming the at least one portion of the wire around the other portion of the wire to form a coil adjacent the loop.

AN 10/664,108
Page 8

21. (New) The tool of claim 1 wherein the post includes a slot longitudinally oriented therein.